Motions for reduction of total grant under Demand III.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN:
157. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 11,25,100 under Demand III by Rs. 10.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR:
158. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 11,25,100 under Demand III by Re. 1.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN:
159. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 11,25,100 under Demand III by Re. 1.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED:
160. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 11,25,100 under Demand III by Rs. 10.

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN;
161. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 11,25,100 under Demand III by Rs. 10.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED:
162. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 11,25,100 under Demand III by Rs. 10.

MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHY:
163. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 11,25,100 under Demand III by Re. 1.

DEMAND IV—EDUCATION.

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 44,54,547, under Demand IV—Education, excluding the Travancore University.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED: സർ, ഡയറക്ഷൻ ശമ്പളത്തിലുള്ള ൻെറ ർ ശ്രേയിൽ നിന്നും ഫ ൦ ശ്രേ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇതു് പ്രൈവറ്റു് സ്കൂളുകൾക്കു് ഗ്രാൻറ് കൊടുക്കുന്നവിഷയത്തിൽ ഡയറക്ടരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ക്ഷണിക്കുന്നതിനുമാത്രമാകുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, വിശേഷിച്ചും പ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഇവിടത്തെ എല്ലാ വീടുകളിലും ചെന്നുചേരണമെന്നു ഇവിടത്തെ എല്ലാ പൌരന്മാരും ഗവണ്മെൻറും ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. കമ്പൽസറി എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ തന്നെ ഇവിടെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നു ആഗ്രഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ കൂടുതൽ ഉപദ്രവിക്കാതെ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർതന്നെ മുൻപോട്ടു വന്നു് പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ അയച്ചു പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ സഹായിക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവരെ സ്വാഗതംചെയ്യുകയും അവർക്കു അശേഷം വിഷമമില്ലാത്തതരത്തിൽ വേണ്ടഒത്താശചെയ്യുകയുംപ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുകയുംചെയ്ക എന്നുള്ളതായിരിക്കണം ഗവണ്മെൻറു സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ട നയം. ആ നയമാണു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഇപ്പോൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് എന്നാണു് എൻെറ വിശ്വാസം. എന്നാൽ കഴിഞ്ഞ കുറെ വർഷങ്ങളായി ഗ്രാൻറ് സ്കൂളുകളുടെ നേരെ ഡയറക്ടർ അനുവർത്തിച്ചു കാണിക്കുന്ന നയം വിത്യസ്തമായ രീതിയിലാണെന്നു കാണുന്നതിൽ പരിതപിക്കാതെ നിവൃത്തി

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യില്ല. അതു് ഡയറക്ടരുടെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലായ്മകൊണ്ടുക്രൂടിയാണൊ എന്നു ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. അനേകം പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ മൂന്നും നാലും അഞ്ചും വർഷങ്ങൾ ക്ലാസുകൾ തുടങ്ങി അംഗീകാരവും വാങ്ങി അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചു് പഠിപ്പിച്ചവരുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സ്കൂളുകളിൽ പലതിനും ഇന്നും ഗ്രാൻറനുവദിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളംവകയിലും മറ്റും നാലഞ്ചു വർഷങ്ങളായി ഇങ്ങനെ ഭീമമായ സംഖ്യകൾ വർഷംതോറും സഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു മുൻപോട്ടു പോകുവാൻ മനഃസ്ഥിതിയുള്ള മാനേജരന്മാർ എത്രപേർ ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു കണ്ടറിയേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. ഇപ്രകാരം ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കാതെ വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ധാരാളം പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. ഫോറം മുതൽ ഉള്ള അപേക്ഷകന്മാർക്കു് ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കാതെ വളരെക്കാലം കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടതിനു ശേഷം അവർക്കു് ഫൈനൽ വരെയുള്ള ഗ്രാൻറു് ഏകദേശം കിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അതിനുശേഷം അവർക്കു് ശരിയായി ഗ്രാൻറു് കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. ഫൈവു മുതൽ പല സ്കൂളുകൾക്കും, മിക്കവാറും ഒരു ശതമാനം പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങൾക്കും ഗ്രാൻറു് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അല്പസല്പം ചില വിദ്യാലയങ്ങൾക്കു് ചില പ്രത്യേക കാരണവശാൽ ഗ്രാൻറു് അനുവദിച്ചുകാണുമെന്നല്ലാതെ, മറ്റു നിലകളിൽ നോക്കുമ്പോൾ, പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു മുസ്ലീങ്ങളുടെ സ്കൂളുകൾക്കു് ഇതുവരെ ഗ്രാൻറു് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. മുസ്ലീങ്ങളിൽ വളരെ ചുരുക്കം ആളുകൾമാത്രമേ ഇതിനുവേണ്ടി മുൻപോട്ടു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളു. അവരുടെ കാര്യത്തിലെങ്കിലും ഡയറക്ടർ അവർക്കും പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കയും അടുത്തകൊല്ലത്തിലെങ്കിലും ഇതിനു മുൻപുള്ള കടിശിഖസഹിതം അവർക്കുള്ള ഗ്രാൻറു് കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുക്രൂടി ഞാൻ എന്റെ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: I support the motion. We are all aware that several private agencies have taken up the work of imparting education to the pupils and have thus relieved the Government considerably of their burden in the matter. These private agencies are therefore entitled to get adequate help at the hands of Government. In my constituency itself there are several private schools; I can say that, but for them, we would have moved Government long ago for departmental schools there. In the Alleppey town itself, there is no Malayalam School for girls; one private agency has taken up that work, I am sorry to say that since 1110 they have not been given grants for the higher classes. The institution is run by a poor agency and the pupils there are mostly poor. There are not many among the pupils who pay school fees; therefore, the agency finds it very difficult to run the school. If the Government do not go to their rescue, by giving them grants it is very likely that they may stop the school, and increase the burden of Government in this matter.

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[Mr. N. Narayana Kurup]

I would therefore bring to the notice of the House, and of the Government, that these private agencies deserve all help at the hands of Government and the Government may be pleased to give grants to such schools.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: Sir, I also support the motion. Travancore is one of the most advanced countries in the matter of education; still, we cannot say that our education has become universal. Especially the backward and the depressed communities are still far below the standard we aspire for.

In regard to the backward communities, such of them as have had the good fortune to have got themselves educated, have attempted to start schools under their direction and control, and have been persuading the members of their community to send their children to such schools. There are only very few schools of that sort. They deserve to be encouraged by liberal grants.

I would especially bring to the notice of the honourable member the Director of Public Instruction, the Malayalam School at Ponkunnam. It was started in 1105, and was raised to the Middle School standard in 1111. There are now 600 pupils there, and 15 teachers. The school has not so far been given a grant. The institution is run by Ezhavas.

There is another school near Pathanamthitta, a primary school. The first two classes were started in 1090; those classes are being given grant. Now the third and the fourth classes have also been added; and the institution is a full blown primary school. The third and the fourth classes have not yet secured the departmental grant. Those who run the school are not in a position to pay the salaries of the teachers; in fact the salaries are in arrears. As it is, unless the Government give the grant, the managers will have to pay the salaries of the teachers from their own pockets.

Sir, compulsory education is our ideal. Therefore agencies which start primary schools should be encouraged.

I therefore beg to submit that the motion before the House should be accepted and that institutions which serve the backward communities should be specially encouraged by liberal grants.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: Sir, this motion raises a very important question and should receive adequate and careful consideration at the hands of Government. Schools were no doubt started in the past with the best of intentions. Now a days, they have become more or less commercial undertakings. Most of the communal institutions are run as profit-making concerns.

MR. KUNJU PANICKAR: Is that so with regard to primary schools?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: Yes; four teachers join together, each one of them contributes Rs. 200; and they start a school. They easily obtain Government grant. It is not difficult for them to get adequate return for their investments.

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Sir, what I would suggest is this. We are contemplating the establishment of Village Panchayats. All our primary schools should be handed over to the Panchayats. There need be no giving of grant by Government or the taking of it by any individual. Let the allotment for grants be consolidated—be it five rupees or fifty thousand rupees —and distributed to the various Panchayats. If any additional amount is required, it would be open to the Panchayat to levy additional cess from the people of the locality.

Sir, in most cases, even in places where there are Government schools, private schools are started in the neighbourhood. X or Y is interested in the management. He is able to get Government grant. The result is that, after 3 or 4 years, the Government school becomes extinct, and X's school, under the indirect patronage of officers, grows stronger and more healthy. My suggestion therefore is that primary education should be entrusted to Village Panchayats.

As regards secondary education, I would suggest that that also be nationalised. Let there be no private institution imparting secondary education. If it is profitable, let the Government get the profit. If any private agency is anxious to start and run any educational institution of the higher grade, let such agencies start industrial schools.

This is a very important matter. A very great portion of our revenue is spent on education. We have got a university. For a State like Travancore it is highly necessary that primary education should be strictly enforced. Let Government give a grant. If this matter is strictly adhered to by Government, in the course of the next ten years there will be compulsory education successfully worked out in the rural parts. Recently, a church was converted into a school on week days except Sundays. There are some industrial schools also. Such philanthropic agencies are working with the aid of Government money. Without Government money no institution could come up, not even individuals. So, it is high time that Government think over the matter and entrust this primary education, village sanitation, minor irrigation and such other things under the direct control of the Village Panchayats. With these words I support the motion.

MR. N. VELU ACHARI : സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തോടനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ അതിപ്രധാനമായി കരുതേണ്ട ഒരു കാര്യമാണല്ലോ. ഇവിടെ പ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസംതന്നെയും വളരെ കുറവായിട്ടാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ കാണുന്നത്. ഇത് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് റിക്കാർഡു കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ അറിയുവാൻകഴിയും. ഗവണ്മെൻറ് സ്കൂളുകൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഭീമമായ തുക ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെലവാക്കേണ്ടതായിവരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ പ്രൈവറു സ്കൂളുകൾക്കാകട്ടെ. ഗ്രാൻറ് മാത്രമെ കൊടുത്തു ചെലവാക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുള്ളു. ക്രമവന്നാൽ ൨൦൦ മുതൽ ൭൦൦ രൂപവരെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഓരോ ഗ്രാൻറ് സ്കൂളിനും വേണ്ടി സഹായധനം നൽകേണ്ടതായിവരുന്നുള്ളു. അതേസമയം ഗവണ്മെൻറു നടത്തുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള സ്കൂ

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[Mr. N. Velu Achari]

ളകുക്കു് ൧൦൦൦-മോ അതിൽ കൂടുതലൊ രുപ ചെലവുചെയ്യേണ്ടി വരുന്നു. ഗ്രാൻറ് സ്കൂളുകൾ നാട്ടിൽ എത്രമാത്രം ഉണ്ടാകുമോ അത്രമാത്രം നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിനു് പുരോഗതിയുണ്ടാകും. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് സ്കൂളുകൾ നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്തിട്ടായിരുന്നാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. കൂടുതൽ ഗ്രാൻറ് സ്കൂളുകൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണു് വേണ്ടതു്. അവയെല്ലാം ഗ്രാൻറും കൊടുക്കണം. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു അതുകൊണ്ടു് വലിയ നഷ്ടമുണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ലല്ലോ? തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഇതരരാജ്യങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു് കണക്കുകൊണ്ടു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ പുരോഗമിച്ചുവരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് പരമാർത്ഥംതന്നെയെങ്കിലും ഇവിടത്തെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് അഥവാ പ്രേരകരും അന്ധന്മാരും ആയ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് സാമാന്യവിദ്യാഭ്യാസംപോലും ശരിക്കില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു്, മഹാശയനായ മഹാരാജാവു് തിരുമനസ്സിലേയും തിരുമനസ്സിലെ വിധഗ്ദ്ധമായ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേയും കളങ്കപങ്കിലമാക്കാൻ കുറച്ചു നാളിനുമുമ്പു ചിലർ ശ്രമിച്ചതെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഇൻഡ്യയുടെ രമണീയമായ ഈ പൂന്തോട്ടത്തെ—അഥവാ ഫലഭൂയിഷ്ഠമായ ഈ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ ഇൻഡ്യൻ നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ പ്രഥമസ്ഥാനാർഹമാക്കണമെന്നുള്ള തിരുമനസ്സിലെ അഭിലാഷത്തെ—ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ നിശ്ചയത്തെ—ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആഗ്രഹത്തെ നിറവേറ്റണമെങ്കിൽ ഓരോ കരകളിലും ഓരോ സ്കൂളുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളംകാലം അതു് പൂർണ്ണമായി സാധിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു് പ്രൈവറ്റു് സ്കൂളുകൾക്കു ഗ്രാൻറ് കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ദയവു കാണിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ബലമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

MR. D. FRANCIS (*Kulkulam cum Vilavancod*: സർ, இந்தப்பிரேமேயத்தை—cut motion-ஐ—நான் அனுகூலிக்கிறேன். இந்த ராஜ்யத்தில் ஏராளமாக கிறுண்டு பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள்—Grand-in-aid schools—சர்க்கார் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை விடதிறமையாகவும், செம்மையாகவும் நடத்தப்படுகின்றன. அநேகம் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கபடுகிற கிறுண்டு சொல்பமானபடியால், மானேஜர்மாருக்கு தங்கள் தங்கள்பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை சரிவர நடத்திக்கொண்டுபோக முடியவில்லை. பிரைவேட் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களிலுள்ள பரீட்சை ரிஸல்டு-Result-டிபார்ட்டுமெண்டு பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை விட நன்னயிருக்கிறது. ஒரு பிரைவேட்டு பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்கு 1000 ரூபாய்சிலவு ஆகுமானால், இதுபோலுள்ள டிபார்ட்டுமெண்டு ஸ்கூலுக்கு 3000 ரூபாய் சிலவாகும். அதனால் சிலடிபார்ட்டுமெண்டு பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை பிரைவேட் பள்ளிக்கூடம் மானேஜர்களிடத்தில் ஏற்பிக்கிறது நன்மையாகயிருக்கும். பிரைவேட் பள்ளிக்கூட வாத்தியார் / ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் மாதம் ஒன்றுக்கு ஒரு ரூபாயாவது சம்பளத்தில் கூடுதல் அனுவதிக்கிறது உத்தமமாயிருக்கும். இவ்வளவும் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு இந்தப்பிரேமேயத்தை அனுகூலிக்கிறேன்.

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MR. A. GOPALA MENON: My personal attitude in regard to the desirability of encouraging primary schools under private management was expressed in very clear terms at the last budget session of this Assembly, and in the administration of the affairs of the Education Department, I have carried out my idea by allotting every pie of the amount assigned in the Budget for the purpose for distribution among primary schools in the State. Unfortunately, however, the funds have not been sufficient. Last year, as I think I have told the House before, it was possible to bring all primary schools opened and completed up till Idavom 1110 within the scope of the grant-in-aid rule. For that purpose, Government generously placed at the disposal of the Department Rs. 9, 75,000. With that sum it was possible to bring down the date up to Idavom 1110 uniformly for all primary schools. I did not want to make any discrimination in that matter because every locality is interested in its own school, and therefore to have a fixed date would be more appropriate and justifiable than to select a few schools in every locality.

My friend Mr. P. S. Mahomed has given a very wide scope to his motion, because the motion covers the treatment towards managers of private schools as a whole. In this regard, I have to place before the House considerations which must decide between different types and different kinds and grades of schools. For example, there are English High Schools and English Middle Schools, in which to a large extent the fee income is sufficient to cover all the necessary expenditure. It has also been observed for a very long time that the English Middle schools are certainly profit-making concerns to private managements, and that English High Schools can at least pay their own way. In regard to Malayalam and Tamil Middle Schools also, this proposition holds good to some extent. Fees are levied in every class and a minimum of 20 students who are paying fees will guarantee an income of at least ten rupees to the manager. Secondly, there is no direct obligation on the part of the Government or the department to run to the rescue of these institutions as a rule. There are, of course certain institutions which are run on very advanced lines and which require some help, and they are getting such help even now, from another fund placed at the disposal of the Department. But as a general rule, the anxious demand for more and more schools of this type has brought to the front the possibility at any rate of such institutions becoming profit-making concerns, and therefore during the last two years a very strict watch has been kept over their development, especially where they come into direct conflict with established institutions and set up rival management in the same locality. My sympathy is all for primary schools, because the Government have declared that the managements should not collect fees from the pupils. As I have told the House earlier, with Rs. 9,75,000 placed at the disposal of the Department it was possible for me to bring schools opened and completed up to Edavom 1110 only, within the scope of the grant.

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Recently I have started an enquiry as to how many primary schools which have been completed after 1110 deserve special recognition or aid and those statistics are coming in. The Assistant Inspectors have been asked to report on schools which have sufficient accomodation, schools which are efficient in teaching and schools which require immediate help, so that they may not drop out, so that these schools may be taken up for special aid. After examining such institutions, I shall be in a position to say how far we can go immediately towards their aid. Even then a substantial number might have to be left out in the next year, and every effort must be made to close down over-lapping schools and save money on the grants that are now wasted on them. The difficulty there is that two class schools refuse to become four classes schools, because they are not immediately given the promised aid for the third and the fourth classes. They are receiving grants for classes one and two only and unless the Department can promise a grant for classes 3 and 4, they refuse to move forward and they do not therefore co-operative with us. Wherever the schools are found to be over-lapping they will be closed down and the moneys made available thereby will be utilised as far as possible to help institutions which have four complete classes and which run on efficient lines.

Something has been said in regard to the help rendered to backward areas and backward communities. The difficulty has been very great in recent months, because some schools are not getting now any kind of grant. The attention of the Department has been drawn to the necessity for going to the rescue of backward areas and the uplift of the backward communities. As regards backward areas, I can easily understand the demand. Some times the plea on their behalf gets mixed up. Is the school to be judged by the community to which the management belongs or backwardness in relation to the backward class pupils attending those schools. If it is the recognition of the backward class pupil alone, I think Government have already made some provision for helping the Harijan schools and other schools of that kind by means of special rules such as, lower rates of grants, waiving of necessary conditions of recognition etc. Their teachers do not require any qualifications and there is no necessity to have any particular type of building, nor is there any restriction in regard to the number of classes, and so forth. So that then, there is no question of any discrimination in regard to them. What often happens is some managements come and say that they are running schools and as children of backward communities are undergoing tuition there, they require help. In that particular respect, probably, I am not able to meet the requirements of my honourable friends either here or elsewhere. But to the extent to which the primary schools are working satisfactorily, to the extent to which they are working within the rules laid down by the department, it will be my earnest endeavour to help them with whatever funds are available and give them such support as is possible at present.

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Sir, something has been said by way contrast between the economy of private management and the costeiness of departmental management. That is a very wide question upon which I will not enter. Departmental schools serve purposes of their own which the private schools cannot serve. Private schools serve their objects too and I am aware of that. But the average type of private school is not in any way superior to the average type of departmental school. My difficulty is that within certain allotted funds, the possibility of developing these departmental schools is so difficult and the possibility of developing the private schools is so limited that it is not fair on my part to take up the challenge. I shall content myself by saying this in reply to the suggestion put forward here. Let me say, that it is, neither cheap and economical and probably not more efficient to hand over departmental schools to private managements. Sir, it has been my belief that such a transition cannot be allowed under the present condition of the schools and I cannot subscribe to such a proposition. But the main contention here is that private managements, should be given such help as would enable them to carry on the work which they are doing now. I agree with that proposition and I shall endeavour to give them such help as is possible within the funds at my disposal or within the funds that I can bring to my help. With this assurance I request Mr. Muhamad to withdraw his motion.

MR. P. S. MAHOMAD: I beg leave to withdraw the motion. The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The following motions were not moved.

Motions 165 and 166.

165. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 21,433 for establishment by Rs. 10.
166. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,300 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

Motion No. 167.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I move the following motion.

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,300 for travelling allowances by rupee 1."

My object in moving this motion is to impress on the Government the necessity for reducing the price of text books published by Government.

PRESIDENT: Is it the member's idea that the Director during his travels can hear the grievances in regard to the high prices of text-books?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Yes Sir. That is exactly my point.

The public in general are very greatful to Government for having been pleased to publish text-books and we all know that the standard of those books has been considerably improved thereby. But Sir, it is a matter of common complaint that the prices fixed for the Text-books published by Government are very prohibitive and out of proportion to the cost of their production. I have asked a specific question with regard to the cost of production and the selling price of these books and I find it has been admitted in the list of questions for answers. I have

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enquired the price of each copy of the Text-Books published by Government and the actual cost of its production. I am sorry to find that I have not been able to get so far an answer to this question of mine. I do not wish to make a long speech in support of this motion, but would only draw the attention of Government to the grievances of the general public in regard to the high price fixed for the text-books, by Government. It is rather disappointing and extremely painful to the public to find that the publication of these Text Books by Government is also attempted to be made a source of profit to them as in the case of commercial undertakings. Of course this should not be the motto of any Government. Hence I move my motion for the unanimous acceptance of the House.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: I support the motion so ably moved by my friend Mr. Velayudhan Pillai. The cost of education in English and Vernacular schools of the State has become too prohibitive on account of the high rate of school fees levied on the students. I should say it is a sort of super-tax levied from the parents for sending their children to the schools. That cannot be tolerated. But along with that, to make the students of Preparatory, First and Second Forms etc. to purchase books worth from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10 is very very hard. If the Books had cost so much by way of printing and other charges to the publishers, then the fixing of high prices would have been reasonable. On the other hand, we see that an ordinary Malayalam V reader which was once sold by an ordinary printer for four or five chuckrams are now being sold only for three times the price. The same is the case with regard to most other books. So, my submission is that along with the prohibitive school fees, to tax the guardians with such high prices for text-books also is not a justifiable proposition. I should say that it is not a step in the right direction. It appears that it is rather to prohibit education that such high prices are fixed, especially for Government publications. So as a policy of encouraging education at least considering the depression time in which we are placed, the price of text-books should be brought down to a reasonable level. With these words I resume my seat.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: I also wish to offer a few remarks on this motion. I am one with Mr. Velayudhan Pillai in thinking that the price of books published under the auspices of Government is high. I had occasion to compare the price of Malayalam, Tamil and English books and I found that the cost for Tamil text-books especially has been fixed at higher rates than for Malayalam text books. I also happened to see one or two Tamil books which my children brought to me, when I ascertained its prohibitive price. When I turned the pages of them, I found their printing so bad that even with the help of spectacles, I was not able to read them. The printing was shabby and was covered by a thin layer of ink. I am sorry to observe that the printing was so disgraceful. Then as regards illustrations in the books, elephant looked like an ass. It may be said that I am a bit exaggerating matters. Whatever it is, the fact remains that the printing of

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Tamil text books was thoroughly unworthy. Such books cannot at all be recommended to be used especially by school children. Along with that, if Government were to say that the price of each book is between 6 to 10 annas, so far as Preparatory class text books are concerned, I do not know how many students will buy that kind of books. Perhaps they may be forced to do without such books.

PRESIDENT: What is the publication which the honourable Member is referring to?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: I refer to Tamil books that were printed by the City Press and the Reddiar Press.

PRESIDENT: What is the actual publication referred to by the Member.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Some readers for the Preparatory class and certain higher forms. That is the present position of the printing undertaken by the Government authorising private firms to print for them. For these reasons it is desirable for the Government to see that the get up printing and finish of there text books in Tamil is sought to be improved and the price thereof is also reduced so as to give no room for further complaint.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILAI: Sir, I would like to offer a few remarks. Since the text books are intended for educating school children, certain principles have to be followed in that respect. It should be our object to inculcate artistic taste in our children. Their get-up should neat; the illustrations therein should be neat; the printing should equally be neat. In the Government publication, for instance, illustrations in the first and second reader in Malayalam give a different import altogether. Modern education in lower classes especially, depends to a great extent on the illustrations. Picture studies are considered to be more important. In the books I referred to, pictures of animals look like plants and plants look like animals. Sometimes plant designs, give the appearance of sky and stars. Is that state of affairs due to lack of persons wanting in good artistic taste? In fact pictures should be what they are intended to be. From such publications, I have to infer that there is paucity of good artists here. So, what I want to bring to the notice of the Director is, that even if the price of books are reduced possibly next year, proper printing of books with really good illustrations must be looked into. There should be no room for similar complaints next year also.

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: Sir, the Government have published recently a number of text books on various topics covering the whole scheme of syllabus for middle schools in English, Malayalam and Tamil. These books were prepared by pereons employed in the Education Department here and elsewhere as well as by public men who were found fit for such kind of work. This work was hurried through so as to make it possible for uniform readers and text-books to be introduced in the schools of the State with as little delay as possible.

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The work was entrusted to established firms of printers and publishers in the State itself. The Government are aware that if the work had been entrusted to out-siders it would have been done better, particularly in the case of Tamil. But the Government deliberately did not want to do it. The work was gone through in a hurry. Given time and opportunity, Government are confident that publishers and firms in this country can come up to that artistic sense which Mr. Sivarama Pillai dwelt upon.

MR. C. JABAMONY NADAR: May I know the names of the publishers?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: As far as I remember they were the Reddiar Press, the City Press and the Anantharamavarma Press which had sent in competative tenders for printing and stocking these books. They were engaged to print and stock these books and get the work done as quickly and cheaply as possible. In this case they had not the time to do their very best. Whatever shortcomings, there are, may be overlooked for the time being because we fully expect that the revised and later editions will attain the excellence which we all wish for.

In regard to the price, the question again is mixed up. We have been told by honourable members that the prices now are higher than before. Considering that I have been connected with the Text Book Committee for the last 25 years, I am surprised that the cry should now be raised at the prices now levied by Government for any book should be regarded as high. Even if it be so, the House will remember that the capital cost, the cost of preparing these books, the cost of translating these books and the cost of printing and binding these books all these will have to be considered in fixing the price. Government had to fix the price of these books at such a figure as will enable them to pay all sorts of persons engaged in the work. The bills that pass through my office show me that the initial costs are high and that the sales will not be up to expectations. As a matter of fact, the number of copies in each case had to be reduced because of the possibilities of the books not selling. The sixth and seventh readers are not purchased by all the students. If all the students could afford to purchase the books prescribed for their classes, Government will not stand to loose. So unless the students come to the rescue, I am afraid, this year the expenditure will exceed the receipts. As regards the Readers which have been taken over long ago by the Government the cry has been raised that they could have been printed and sold for five chs. The books which were sold for five chs. in the old days had only 25 to 40 pages and were badly printed on dirty paper. The Readers now sold contain 120 pages and more and include many illustrations. They may not be of the best type. They are also not such as are produced by any amateurs. Such productions cannot be sold for 5 chs. or 10 chs. Government have no intention of making any great profit. But they do not propose to invest money on these Readers and sell them at

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loss. Government have also to take into account the possibility of expenditure on other publications for schools which they have in view. I can assure the House that the whole question will be examined with a view to reduce the gain that Government may be making on these Readers and with that undertaking I request the Honourable member to withdraw his motion.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: Has the Government made any profit this year on this account?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: It is too early to say that now, the sale is only going on.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Is it on account of their apprehension that the total number of books will not be sold this year that they have fixed the prohibitive price?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: No prohibitive price has been fixed.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: Will the Government be able to produce the books from the Government Press next year?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: I am not sure.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I beg permission of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 168.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 2,300 for Travelling Allowance be reduced by Re. 1. The object of my motion is to bring to the notice of the Government the necessity for the reduction of school fees at least by 25 per cent. The use of the words "school fees" in this motion is very significant. I do not intend including within the scope of this motion any request regarding the reduction of College fees. When we approach this problem we must bear in mind the economic position of the average agriculturist in the State. From page 4 of the Dewan President's statement on 21st July 1939 at the Joint sitting of the Travancore Sri Mulam Assembly and the Sri Chitra State Council it is seen that:

> "Each poor man with his backyard or field of half an acre or an acre owns a few trees and out of the proceeds of these he expects to fill the gap of livelihood between necessity and starvation. "It is therefore, impossible for him adequately to advertise his goods: it is impossible for him, speaking practically, to mark or grade his goods, and it is impossible to keep up all those high standards which people in a more fortunate situation are able to

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adopt. The handicap, the natural hardships of fragmented holdings and labour working on the margin of starvation, must also attract the attention and engage the careful consideration of the authorities".

It is on account of this candid admission of the real economic condition of the agriculturists in the State that I have been emboldened to make this request by means of the motion under discussion. It is not necessary in this connection to say that we, the non-official members on this side of the House, did not venture to move the cut motions regarding the remission of land tax with the fervent hope that atleast this modest and legitimate request will meet with sympathetic consideration at the hands of Government. The total amount of agricultural indebtedness in this State will not be less than Rs. 3 crores now.

PRESIDENT: That figure has been repeated very often, but it must necessarily be wrong because in this country there is no class of people as money-lenders. The same man may be the lender and the borrower.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: According to a modest calculation made by me the total agricultural indebtedness will bear not less than Rs. 180 lakhs per annum at the rate of 6 per cent. We can see from the budget estimate that Government expects to get during the next year by way of school fees and college fees about Rs. 8 lakhs. These two figures will suffice the purpose of serving as a sure index of the unbearable burden of the suffering agriculturists during the next year. I may be permitted to state that the reduction of school fees will in effect be more beneficial to the whole population of the State than any generous remission of land tax. The latter would benefit only the land owning people of the State. But so far as Travancore is concerned, I can assure this House that almost in all Houses there will be some school-going children and so much so if any generous reduction in the school fees is made by Government that will, no doubt, benefit the whole population of the State to some extent at least. So my request is very modest and legitimate. I pray only for the reduction of 25 per cent of the school fees and the probable amount of loss as a result of this cut motion being carried and acted upon will not be very much because Rs. 8 lakhs estimated in the next year's Budget will include the college fees also. So I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. E. SUBRAMONIA AIYAR: Is the member agreeable to receive fees for the education of the children of Government officers?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Yes, from the officers of the State as well as from the retired officers the school fees or something more may be received if they are willing to do so.

MR. E. SUBRAMONIA AIYAR: And also from people earning large income?

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Yes, I have no objection. They may also be taxed on this account.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: I also support the motion. Generally, families in Travancore have to spend Rs. 3 to 4 as tuition fees for the education of their children. An average family will have to spend atleast 10 Rs. as school fees. The price of paddy is too low as also the price of cocoanut, the major source of our income. Even to an average socalled wealthy Travancorean to pay Rs. 10 per mensem as education fees is very difficult. By his earnest desire to get his children educated, he cannot desist from teaching his children though with much difficulty and even some liability. I submit that a higher rate of fees may be levied for those boys who go above the High School classes. Middle School and High School education, I submit, has become a necessity with Travancoreans. To charge a prohibitive rate as school fees for acquiring the necessity of a man is not a good policy. So I beg to support the motion of my friend.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI At this time of economic depression—

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn and meet again tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

The House adjourned at 5 P. M.

A. GUNAMONY,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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